

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A binding piece connecting body comprising:

a plurality of binding pieces, each of the binding pieces comprising a clip having a pair of leg portions and a receiving member having a pair of holes for pinching to bind a bag opening portion by the receiving member and the clip by press-fitting the pair of leg portions of the clip to the pair of holes of the receiving member,

wherein in each of the binding pieces, the clip and the receiving member are connected,
and

the plurality of binding pieces are connected.

Claim 2 (Original): The binding piece connecting body according to claim 1, wherein in each of the binding pieces, the clip and the receiving member are integrally molded into a single member.

Claim 3 (Original): The binding piece connecting body according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of binding pieces are integrally molded into a single member.

Claim 4 (Original): The binding piece connecting body according to claim 1, further comprising:

a connecting portion for connecting the binding piece and other binding piece;

wherein the connecting portion is formed in a taper shape such that one end portion thereof becomes slenderer than other end thereof.

Claim 5 (Original): The binding piece connecting body according to claim 1, further comprising:

a projected portion provided on either one of a face of the clip for pinching the bag opening portion and a face of the receiving member for pinching the bag opening portion.

Claim 6 (Original): The binding piece connecting body according to claim 1, wherein a lubricant is coated on either one of a hole wall of the receiving member and peripheral faces of the pair of leg portions of the clip.

Claim 7 (Original): The binding piece connecting body according to claim 6, wherein the lubricant is coated on front portions of the pair of leg portions of the clip.

Claim 8 (Original): The binding piece connecting body according to claim 6, wherein the lubricant is coated on a vicinity of an opening edge of the hole wall of the receiving member on a side of being fitted with the pair of leg portions.

Claims 9 – 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): A binding apparatus for binding a bag opening portion of a bag, by a binding piece connecting body according to claim 1, the binding apparatus comprising:

a binding portion;

a driver for cutting to separate a front one of the binding piece of the binding piece connecting body and cutting to separate the clip of the binding piece from the receiving member; and

a feeding mechanism for feeding the receiving member cut to be separated from the clip to the binding portion;

wherein after feeding the receiving member to the binding portion by the feeding mechanism, the driver feeds the clip to the binding portion, and the bag opening portion is bound by press-fitting the pair of leg portions of the clip to the pair of holes of the receiving member fed to the binding portion.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The binding apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the feeding mechanism comprises a guide wind path for guiding the receiving member cut to be separated from the clip to the binding portion, and the wind blowing means for feeding the receiving member to the binding portion by blowing air to the guide wind path.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The binding apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:

a guide groove provided at an inner side face of the guide wind path for guiding air blown from a blow out port of the wind blowing means along the guide wind path.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The binding apparatus according to claim 19, wherein a wall at a portion at which a moving path for moving the clip to the binding portion and the guide wind path join is pivoted in a direction of expanding the guide wind path.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): The binding apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:

a holding member arranged at the binding portion and holding the receiving member; and
a stopper provided at the holding member and impacted to the receiving member fed from the guide wind path to stop the receiving member;
wherein the stopper comprises an inclined impact face for impacting the receiving member.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): The binding apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the clip comprises a base portion provided at the pair of leg portions and a groove provided along a rear face of the base portion constituting a side opposed to the leg portion;

wherein the drive comprises an inserting portion inserted to the groove at a front end portion thereof, and

the driver inserts the inserting portion to the groove to feed the clip to the binding portion.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): The binding apparatus according to claim 24, wherein a depth of the groove is deepened on both end sides of the base portion, and the inserting portion is formed substantially in a U-like shape.

Claim 26 (New): The binding piece connecting body according to claim 1, wherein in each of the binding pieces, the clip and the receiving member are aligned in a first direction, and wherein the plurality of binding pieces are aligned in a second direction which is perpendicular to the first direction.